

Message Text

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41

ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8660

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OREP, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: CODEL ROSENTHAL VISIT TO UNESCO: BRIEFINGS AT
PERMDEL AND SECRETARIAT HQ

1. CONGRESSMEN BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL AND GUSS YATRON OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND CONGRESSMAN FLOYD FITHIAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, WERE BRIEFED AT THE US PERMDEL AND AT UNESCO HEADQUARTERS RESPECTIVELY ON APRIL 18. DCM STONE WAS PRESENT AT BOTH SESSIONS.

2. PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF CONGRESSMEN AS REFLECTED IN THEIR QUESTIONS WAS ON (A) FUNCTIONING, PRACTICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF UNESCO, AS WELL AS HOW MEMBER STATES, NOT RPT NOT SECRETARIAT, DETERMINE BUDGETARY-PROGRAM POLICY OF UNESCO; AND (B) WHY SUBSTANTIVE CONCERNS OF UNESCO HAVE IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONTENT.

3. PERMREP JONES, DEPUTY PERMREP AND DELOFF OUTLINED EVOLUTION OF UNESCO FROM SCHOLARLY "CLUB" OF LIKE-MINDED INTELLECTUALS, LARGELY EUROPEAN, 27 YEARS AGO TO AGENCY WHICH NOW CONCERNED MAINLY WITH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE--IN ADVISORY MORE THAN IN MATERIAL AID--AND BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES ENTAILING COOPERATION BETWEEN MAJOR POWERS

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AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, E.G. MAB, IOC, COPYRIGHT,

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, HYDROLOGY, OCEANOGRAPHY,
PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS, ETC.

4. IN BRIEFING AT PERMDEL, PARTICULAR ATTENTION FOCUSED
ON 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE DECISIONS RE ISRAEL AND
AGAINST BACKGROUND OF INCREASING INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL
ISSUES. PERMREP DETAILED SEQUENCE OF EVENTS CONCERNING
JERUSALEM RESOLUTION AND EUROPEAN REGIONAL ISSUE;
PARTICULAR STRESS GIVEN TO FROZEN POSITIONS RESPECTIVELY
OF ARABS AND ISRAELIS ON 18TH GC RESOLUTIONS AND
RESULTANT MINIMAL PROSPECTS OF LATTER'S MODERATION OR
REPEAL.

5. MEETING AT SECRETARIAT HQ WAS CHAIRED BY DDG FOBES
(IN ABSENCE OF DG M'BOW WHO VISITING SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES)
WITH EXBD CHAIRMAN HECTOR WYNTER (JAMAICA) WHO HAD FLOWN
IN FROM LONDON FOR THE OCCASION. FOBES ASSISTED ALSO BY
CROSS SECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS FROM UNESCO SECTORS.
IN RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHAL'S AND CONGRESSMAN
FITHIAN'S PROBING QUESTIONS, SECRETARIAT TEAM STRESSED
ORGANIZATION'S EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE POLITICAL
OBSTRUCTIONS TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES BUT NOTED THAT
OSTENSIBLY APOLITICAL ISSUES WERE IN FACT SUBJECT TO
POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS AND DECISIONS. CONGRESSMEN
INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH CANDOR AND CONTENT OF
SECRETARIAT ANSWERS AND REMARKED, AFTER BRIEFING, ON
PARALLELS BETWEEN UNESCO AND US CONGRESSIONAL DECISIONS
IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURAL SPHERES WITH REGARD TO
POLITICAL FACTORS.

6. COMMENT: CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHAL TOOK LEAD IN
QUESTIONING PERMDEL AS WELL AS UNESCO SECRETARIAT TEAM
AND DEMONSTRATED AN INTEREST IN AND QUICK GRASP OF COMPLEX
PROGRAM AND POLITICS OF THE ORGANIZATION. HE SHOWED
PARTICULAR INTEREST IN EFFECT OF US CONGRESSIONAL ACTION
RE UNESCO BUDGET AND CONSEQUENCES FOR US INTERESTS.
INTEREST EXPRESSED AS WELL IN POSSIBLE MEASURES TO
MODERATE EFFECTIVE 18TH GC RESOLUTIONS, ALTHOUGH
INDICATING ACCEPTANCE OF FACT THAT REPEAL OR REVERSAL
NOT POSSIBLE BEFORE NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO,
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OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1976.

7. UNESCO SECRETARIAT IS ISSUING A BRIEF PRESS
RELEASE ON CODEL VISIT.
STONE

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